Price of Copra and Coir.

263. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware of the fall that has occurred in the price of copra and coir during the past one year ;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether they have investigated the causes which have brought about this fall, and, if so, what are they ; and

(*c*) whether they have taken or propose to take any action to remedy this evil ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Government have not made any investigation. No useful purpose will be served by making investigations locally. The prices of copra and coir are influenced by considerations of supply and demand and the fluctuating conditions of foreign markets. There is no Travancore agency abroad to investigate these conditions and find out the cause that bring about the fall in prices.

(*c*) In the circumstances stated in the answer to part (*b*), the Government do not propose to take any action at present. The Government have, in consideration of the fall in market value, reduced the tariff value of copra from Rs. 22-As. 8 to Rs. 18 per cwt., for the purpose of the levy of export duty.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : With regard to the answer to parts (*b*) and (*c*), has the member realised that any fall in the price of copra or coir is a matter of life and death to the people of Travancore ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : I have not realised that.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know from the member whether the Government are aware of the industrial condition of the taluks affected by the fall in the price of cocoanut and coir ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : I wish to know whether those taluks where the industry is carried on in coir and copra will be affected by a fall in the price of cocoanuts.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : They may be affected.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether the Government think that it is highly necessary that some investigations should be carried on in this matter ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : About what ?

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): About the fall in the price of copra and coir?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is given there that it is not possible.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): The answer says that the Government do not propose to make an investigation.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): For the reasons mentioned in the answer to part (*b*).

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Therefore I am asking whether the Government realise the seriousness of the question as to make an investigation.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Whatever be the situation, for the reasons mentioned in the answer to part (*b*), it is useless to make an investigation. The prices of copra and coir are influenced by the condition of markets elsewhere.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will it not be desirable to investigate the matter in order to know whether there is not any other plan to counteract the foreign market conditions so that the people may not suffer from the fall in price?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If the member makes any suggestion as to any other arrangement, that will be considered.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is the member aware that the tariff value is above the current market rate?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): May be.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to the answer to part (*c*), may I know whether, on account of the late reduction in the tariff value of copra, the native mill-owners are adversely affected?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): May be, to a very small extent.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Government do not think that this tariff rate has affected also the price of copra?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): As I have already said, the price of copra fluctuates with the conditions of foreign markets.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): It is given in the answer that no investigation was carried on. What I want to know is whether it would not be possible to make an investigation?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It has been stated already that no investigation is necessary for the reasons mentioned in the answer to part (*b*).

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Government will consider the suggestion that some remedy is very

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urgent in this matter because the fall in the price of copra and coir is standing steady for the past one and a half years?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If the member would give out what exactly is in his mind, that will be considered.

Fall in Price of Cocoanut and Cocoanut Products.

264. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the causes of the continued fall in the price of the products of the cocoanut tree during the last several months?

(2) Are they aware that there is widespread distress in the country owing to this fall?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The member is referred to the answer given to part (*b*) of question No. 263 by Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.

(2) The fall in prices has caused some hardship to cocoanut cultivators and merchants.

Sanitation in Changanachery Municipality.

265. **MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI** (*Quilon*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received the reports of the Municipal Council, Changanachery, and the Sanitary Commissioner in regard to the sanitary condition of the Changanachery market?

(2) If the answer to the first part is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to place the reports on the table?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) Yes.

(2) Copies of the reports* are placed on the table.

Introduction of Scavenging System in the Changanachery Market.

266. **MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI** (*Quilon*): (1) In regard to the introduction of compulsory scavenging in the Changanachery market, will the Government be pleased to state when the sub-committee was appointed by the Municipal Council, whether the committee has made any report, and, if it has, what action the Municipality has taken on such report?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to lay the sub-committee's report on the table?

(3) If the sub-committee has not made any report, will the Government be pleased to state why it has not?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The sub-committee appointed on 21-5-1101 has recommended the early introduction of the scavenging system in the market area. Steps are being taken by the Council under Section 62 of the Municipal Regulation for its introduction.

* *Vide* Appendices II A and II B—Pages 798—801.

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